

they worked day and night to search for people in the rubble. In the end, 346 firefighters and emergency personnel lost their lives.

The heroism and bravery shown by the firefighters and rescue workers in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks led Connor Gehrarty, the son of a New York City firefighter who perished in the rescue efforts after September 11th, to circulate via e-mail the idea of establishing a day to honor firefighters.

Connor has noted that there is substantial remembrance of events such as the Oklahoma City bombing and 9-11. Connor emphasizes that firefighters deserve their own distinct day to be honored for the full panoply of their service. I agree.

Connor has worked diligently for five years to try to accomplish his goal. My office was able to get in touch with him using Facebook, a networking website, and inform him of the plans to make his idea a reality with this resolution. He is very supportive of this legislation.

The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association was also helpful with suggestions in the drafting of this legislation. The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association (OSFA) has 14,000 members consisting of paid (union and non-union), volunteer, and retired firefighters. In addition to providing support, services, and events for firefighters in Oklahoma, the OSFA oversees the Oklahoma Firefighters Museum and the Oklahoma Fallen and Living Firefighters Memorial. I am pleased with the dedication of this organization and the positive role it plays in the lives of Oklahoma's firefighters. I appreciate their suggestions and support of this resolution.

The OSFA is one of many organizations of firefighters in Oklahoma and around the country that impress me. Just last week, a group of fire marshals came all the way up from Oklahoma to visit my DC office. That visit spurred me to move forward with this resolution.

I pledge to ensure that as we celebrate the first annual National Firefighter Appreciation Day and many more in years to come, the hard-working and courageous individuals that make up groups such as these will be honored in a distinct way that is long overdue.

In light of the heroism and inspirational example of firefighters, please join me in naming the second Tuesday of October National Firefighter Appreciation Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, 2006, AND ENDING ON OCTOBER 14, 2006, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA WEEK”, IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC MEDIA OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BINGA-

MAN, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 597

Whereas, for almost 470 years, the United States has benefitted from the work of Hispanic writers and publishers;

Whereas more than 600 Hispanic publishers circulate more than 20,000,000 copies of publications every week in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of every 8 citizens of the United States is served by a Hispanic publisher;

Whereas the Hispanic press informs many citizens of the United States about the great political, economic, and social issues of the day;

Whereas the Hispanic press of the United States particularly focuses on informing and promoting the well-being of the Hispanic community of the United States; and

Whereas, by commemorating the achievements of the Hispanic press, the Senate acknowledges the important role that the Hispanic press has played in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on October 8, 2006, and ending on October 14, 2006, as “National Hispanic Media Week”, in honor of the Hispanic Media of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit an important resolution designating October 8 through the 14 as National Hispanic Media Week. I am joined by Senators BINGAMAN, SALAZAR, MARTINEZ, and NELSON of Florida in the introduction of this resolution.

This is the second year in which the Senate has designated a week to honor the Hispanic media of America. An institution that can trace its origins to almost four hundred years ago, America's Hispanic journalists and publishers have worked tirelessly to promote the free and deliberative exchange of ideas. The Hispanic media has played an important role in protecting cherished freedoms and rights. They have also worked to preserve our freedom of speech and have encouraged the growth of civic engagement in our nation's Hispanic community.

Since its early days, the Hispanic media has grown to serve a population exceeding 20 million people. In my home State of New Mexico, approximately 42 percent of the population is Hispanic. I know that many of these individuals turn to Hispanic media for news and other important information. As such, I am honored to be able to support a group that is important to so many people in my home State and in our great nation.

This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and states across the Nation to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in promptly passing this Resolution designating October 8 through October 14 as National Hispanic Media Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 15, 2006, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. TALENT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CRIAG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution, which was:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations would focus on character education, would be of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 15, 2006, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today with my good friend Senator DODD to submit a resolution designating the week of October 15 through the 21 as the 2006 National Character Counts Week.

Our character is the foundation of who we are as people and how we are perceived by the world. Everyday our character and ethics are tested through the decisions we make and the behavior we exhibit. The National Character Counts program focuses on “Six Pillars of Character” which are promoted through school and community based character education programs across the country. The six pillars are: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

I have supported Character Counts throughout the years because I believe this program reaches out to all youth and adults, as the Character Counts Coalition states, no matter the individual’s race, creed, politics, gender, and wealth. In my home state of New Mexico, we have run many successful Character Counts programs throughout the years. While many schools initiate Character Counts programs there are also many other organizations that develop character based programming. I would like to take the time to recognize some of the successful programming we have had in New Mexico for 2006.

Mesa Elementary School in Clovis, NM is the definition of a school that embraces character education programming. Everyday school begins with a Character Song and Pledge and every month they organize a Character Counts assembly to recognize and reflect upon the “Six Pillars of Character.” In Gallup, the Gallup High School National Honor Society is distributing Character Counts posters to all faculty and staff and volunteering for a Youth Leadership Weekend. In Las Cruces, the City of Las Cruces Recreation Section organized the K-8th basketball leagues to participate in sportsmanship games and the halftime show will spotlight Pursuing Victory with Honor. Lastly, the New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility is gearing up to commence a Character Counts based series in their new character education programming. All of these organizations and schools as well as the many others not mentioned

here, are to be commended for their hard work in developing these programs and spreading the message that character truly does count.

During the week of October 15, I hope everyone takes the time to participate in a Character Counts event in their local area. I know in New Mexico we will be having some special celebrations. On October 16 in Carlsbad, New Mexico there will be the 10th Anniversary Character Counts Celebration including a student-designed Character Counts billboard unveiling at a celebratory dinner; October 17, the Las Cruces Public Schools will have “Go for the Gold” Character Counts awards; October 19, the Albuquerque Public Schools will have a Character Counts annual awards breakfast, and Chavez County will have a Character Counts Celebration Night; and on October 20, the YMCA of Central New Mexico will have a Youth Achiever Awards ceremony.

I believe this program is making a difference in my home state and across the country. I want to encourage more people to become involved with the Character Counts program, but most of all I hope individuals will take the time to reflect on what the “Six Pillars of Character” mean to them.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this effort.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator DOMENICI and I are submitting a resolution designating the third week of October as “National Character Counts Week.” I have worked for many years on the issue of character education and hope that by designating a special week to this cause, students and teachers will come together to participate in character building activities in their schools not only this week but all year long.

In 1994, Senator DOMENICI and I first established the Partnerships in Character Education Pilot Project and have worked regularly since then to commemorate National Character Counts Week. Character education is about celebrating what’s right with young people while enabling them to develop the knowledge and life skills necessary in order to embrace ethical and responsible behavior. I am pleased that we are continuing our efforts today to help expand States’ and schools’ abilities to make character education a central part of every child’s education.

Our schools may figuratively be built with the bricks of English, math and science, but character education certainly provides the mortar. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship are the six pillars of character. The standards of conduct that arise out of those values constitute the foundation of ethics, and therefore of ethical decision-making.

Character education looks like young people learning, growing, and becoming. It feels like strength, courage, possibility, and hope. Character education provides students a context within

which to learn. If we view education simply as the imparting of knowledge to our children, then we will not only miss an opportunity, but will jeopardize our future.

Currently, there are character education programs across all 50 states in rural, urban and suburban areas at every grade level. I’d like to take a moment to tell you about two programs in my home state of Connecticut.

At Jared Eliot Middle School in Clinton, CT, creating safe, welcoming schools where character matters is a high priority. Pillars showcasing the principles of high character greet everyone who enters the building and are a vivid reminder of the values embraced by the school community. This schoolwide effort is felt and lived by all who work and learn there.

Also, Old Saybrook Middle School, a recognized middle school of the year, is stellar in large part because of the ongoing schoolwide initiative to focus on efforts to create a school climate that celebrates individuals who exhibit high moral character and are engaged and connected to school. Parents are closely involved and support these efforts in uniquely high numbers. This dedicated school and its community work hard to build a positive community through its character education program, and has experienced great success socially and academically because of it.

Character education programs work. Schools across the country that have adopted strong character education programs report better student performance, fewer discipline problems, and increased student involvement within the community. Children want direction—they want to be taught right from wrong. Young people yearn for consistent adult involvement, and when they get it, according to surveys, they are less inclined to use illegal drugs, vandalize or commit suicide. The American public wants character education in our schools, too. Studies show that approximately 90 percent of Americans support schools teaching character education.

As all education policy should be, support of character education is bipartisan. This year we have cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. Many of our country’s leading educational and youth-serving organizations also actively support character education, including YMCA, 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Little League, the National Education Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Character education can and is being incorporated into children’s lives in and outside of the classroom. It provides a helping hand to our schools and communities to ensure our children’s futures are bright and filled with opportunities and success. Character education not only cultivates minds, it nurtures hearts. While our children may be one-quarter of our population, they are 100 percent of our future.

I would submit that character transcends religious, cultural, political,

and socioeconomic barriers. I believe our country is having a renewed focus on character and this sends a wonderful message to Americans, and will help those of us involved in character education reinvigorate our efforts to get communities and schools involved.

So today, Senator DOMENICI and I introduce a resolution to accomplish just that and hopefully our renewed effort will bring together even more communities to ensure that character education is a part of every child's life. I hope that my colleagues will support this important effort.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 23, 2006, THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2006, AS "NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK"

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DODD, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOND, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BAYH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was

S. RES. 599

Whereas lead poisoning is a leading environmental health hazard to children in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 310,000 preschool children in the United States have harmful levels of lead in their blood;

Whereas lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth;

Whereas children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families;

Whereas children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, or consumable products;

Whereas children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

Whereas lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 23, 2006, through October 27, 2006, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 12, 2006, AS "NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE DAY"

Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KERRY, Mr.

BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 600

Whereas the United States should reduce the dependence of the Nation on foreign oil and enhance the energy security of the Nation by creating a transportation sector that is less dependent on oil;

Whereas the United States should improve the air quality of the Nation by reducing emissions from the millions of motor vehicles that operate in the United States;

Whereas the United States should foster national expertise and technological advancement in cleaner, more energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas a robust domestic industry for alternative fuels and alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will create jobs and increase the competitiveness of the United States in the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States need more options for clean and energy-efficient transportation;

Whereas the mainstream adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles will produce benefits at the local, national, and international levels;

Whereas consumers and businesses require a better understanding of the benefits of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas first responders require proper and comprehensive training to become fully prepared for any precautionary measures that they may need to take during incidents and extrications that involve alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

Whereas the Federal Government can lead the way toward a cleaner and more efficient transportation sector by choosing alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles for the fleets of the Federal Government; and

Whereas Federal support for the adoption of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles can accelerate greater energy independence for the United States, improve the environmental security of the Nation, and address global climate change: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 12, 2006, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day";

(2) proclaims National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day as a day to promote programs and activities that will lead to the greater use of cleaner, more efficient transportation that uses new sources of energy, including—

(A) biofuels;

(B) battery-electric and hybrid-electric power;

(C) natural gas and propane;

(D) hydrogen and fuel cells; and

(E) emerging alternatives to conventional vehicle technologies; and urge Americans—

(A) to increase the personal and commercial use of cleaner and energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles;

(B) to promote public sector adoption of cleaner and energy-efficient alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles; and

(C) to encourage the enactment of Federal policies to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign oil through the advancement and adoption of alternative, ad-

vanced, and emerging vehicle and fuel technologies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 601—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTSTANDING HISPANIC SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 601

Whereas the purpose of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States who promote a greater public understanding of science and motivate Hispanic youth to develop an interest in science;

Whereas the sixth annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala will be held at the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, October 28, 2006;

Whereas proceeds of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala support scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in the Museum of Science & Industry's Youth Enriched by Science Program, known as the "YES! Team"; and

Whereas a need to acknowledge the work and effort of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States has led to the selection of Dr. Inés Cifuentes as the honoree of the sixth annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award, in recognition of her dedication to training science and mathematics educators, and her involvement in encouraging young students to study the earth sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for the Hispanic community, including efforts to honor outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States at the annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala and to organize a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day"; and

(2) congratulates Dr. Inés Cifuentes for being honored as the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year for 2006 by the Museum of Science & Industry, in recognition of the dedication Dr. Cifuentes has shown to training science and mathematics educators and her involvement in encouraging young students to study the earth sciences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 602—MEMORIALIZING AND HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BYRON NELSON

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution, which was:

S. RES. 602

Whereas Byron Nelson was born on a cotton farm in Ellis County, near Waxahachie, Texas, on February 4, 1912;

Whereas Byron Nelson became a caddie and taught himself the game of golf at Glen Garden Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas in 1922;

Whereas Byron Nelson became a professional golfer in 1932 and won 54 PGA-sanctioned tournaments;

Whereas Byron Nelson is widely credited as being the father of the modern swing;

Whereas, in the 1945 professional season, Byron Nelson won a 1-season record of 18 tournaments and averaged 68.33 strokes;